HMDC Presents...

Bloc Map: World Health Organization (WHO)

Topic: Social Effects of Addiction

Addiction hurts families, schools and whole countries. WHO says about 2.6 million deaths were caused by alcohol in 2019, and about 39.5 million people are affected by drug use disorders. Countries agree the problem is serious, but they disagree about the best way to help.

THE MAIN GROUPS (BLOCS)

A bloc is a group of countries that often vote together. Rows that start with "Check:" mean our sources do not name the members, so research them yourself.

Group	Who is in it	What they want	Source
Public-health prevention group	All WHO member states agreed on paper: the World Health Assembly adopted the global alcohol action plan (decision WHA75(11), May 2022).	Prevent harm before it starts: rules on advertising, prices and sales to young people, plus education.	World Health Organization
Treatment and harm-reduction group	The European Union is a clear example.	Treatment, risk and harm reduction, and alternatives to coercive sanctions, in line with human rights.	Council of the European Union
Strict-control group	Check: which countries in your committee use very strict drug laws. Read each country's own statements.	Strong laws and punishment to stop supply and use.	World Health Organization
Countries that need help to build treatment	Check: countries with few treatment centers or doctors.	Money, training and shared medicines from richer countries.	World Health Organization

FINDING YOUR ALLIES

1.	If your country is in the EU, start with other EU members and countries that support harm reduction.
2.	If your country uses strict laws, look for other countries that focus on stopping supply.
3.	Every country can join the prevention group, because all WHO members adopted the alcohol action plan.

THREE COMPROMISE IDEAS

A compromise gives each side something it wants. Try one of these in an unmoderated caucus.

1.	Combine prevention for young people with treatment for people who are already addicted, so both groups get something they want.
2.	Let each country choose its own laws, but agree on shared goals and yearly reports to WHO.
3.	Create a fund where richer countries help poorer countries build treatment centers and train health workers.

YOUR NOTES

My country's bloc: _____ My first ally: _____

SOURCES

According to World Health Organization, "Alcohol (fact sheet)", June 28, 2024. https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/alcohol

According to World Health Organization, "Drugs (psychoactive)", Last Accessed: November 2026. https://www.who.int/health-topics/drugs-psychoactive

According to World Health Organization, "Global alcohol action plan: WHA75(11) decision", Last Accessed: Novembe r 2026. https://www.who.int/teams/mental-health-and-substance-use/alcohol-drugs-and-addictive-behaviours/alcoho l/our-activities/towards-and-action-plan-on-alcohol/2

According to Council of the European Union, "EU Drugs Strategy 2021-2025 (document 14178/20)", December 18, 2020. https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-14178-2020-INIT/en/pdf

Positions change. Before the conference, read your own country's newest statement on this topic.